

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /075 W
-----034071 011447Z /46

R 010814Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0395
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS ON THE FDP AND A POSSIBLE
CSU FOURTH PARTY EFFORT

REF: MUNICH 2557

1. IN LENGTHY SPEECHES IN TWO BAVARIAN CITIES IN
RECENT DAYS, CSU CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS COMMENTED
ON THE UPCOMING LANDTAG ELECTIONS IN LOWER SAXONY
(JUNE 4) AND HESSE (OCTOBER 8). IN LOWER SAXONY, STRAUSS
FEELS THE CDU CANNOT RPT NOT LOSE; IT WILL EITHER WIN AN
ABSOLUTE MAJORITY BY ITSELF OR FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT
TOGETHER WITH THE FDP. IN HESSE, HOWEVER, STRAUSS DOES
NOT RPT NOT, AT LEAST AT THE PRESENT TIME, EXPECT DREGGER
AND THE CDU TO WIN AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY.

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2. STRAUSS CLEARLY LINKS HIS WOULD-BE CSU "FOURTH
PARTY" STRATEGY WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FDP IN THE
HESSE LANDTAG ELECTION IN OCTOBER. IF HESSIAN VOTERS
ENDORSE THE FDP'S COMMITMENT TO THE RENEWAL OF THE
SPD/FDP COALITION BY GIVING THE FDP MORE VOTES THAN IT
GOT IN THE LAST LANDTAG ELECTIONS, STRAUSS WILL BE LESS
INCLINED TO PUSH FOR A CSU FOURTH PARTY EFFORT. STRAUSS

HAS THREATENED THE FDP WITH UNSPECIFIED "CONSEQUENCES," HOWEVER, IF THE FDP OBTAINS FEWER VOTES IN HESSE THAN IN THE PREVIOUS LANDTAG ELECTION YET MANAGES TO REMAIN ABOVE THE FIVE PERCENT LINE. IN CONGEN'S VIEW, THESE UNSPECIFIED "CONSEQUENCES" CAN ONLY BE THE MOUNTING OF A CSU FOURTH PARTY EFFORT.

3. IN AN ATTEMPT ONCE AGAIN TO ALLAY CDU SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE AIMS AND CONSEQUENCES OF A CSU FOURTH PARTY EFFORT, STRAUSS EMPHASIZED THAT THE RESULT OF SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO BOTH CDU AND CSU SINCE IT WOULD BRING THE UNION A DECISIVE MAJORITY OF SEATS IN THE BUNDESTAG.

4. WE BELIEVE STRAUSS IS UTTERLY SERIOUS WHEN HE INDICATES HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO TRY TO DEAL THE FDP A FATAL BLOW VIA A CSU FOURTH PARTY EFFORT IF THE FDP, BECAUSE OF ITS COMMITMENT TO A RENEWED SPD/FDP COALITION, SHOULD EMERGE FROM THE HESSIAN LANDTAG ELECTIONS IN A WEAKENED STATE. BETTS

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